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ISSUE 100 | October 2012

Celebrating a century!

THE 100TH ISSUE OF YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ROLLS OFF THE PRESS!

LEYS News has reached its first major milestone in the newspaper's 16 year history and this month publishes its 100th edition.

The newspaper started life as a simple A4 newsletter that was launched as part of a community engagement project when half of the Leys estate that we know today was still under construction.

Carol Richards and Joanne Willett were the first editors of Leys News, and getting the first issue out was a real labour of love and fraught with worry and stress.

Carol, from The Dovecote said: "There was nothing here when we arrived, the Dovecote was new and we barely had desks and phones. We needed to find out what the families here wanted and needed and once we started speaking to people it was clear that a local community newsletter was going to be the best way to spread the word and let people know what was going on."

Carol and Jo were still working away at 4am on the morning that the first issue was due to be printed, because a computer virus caused major technical and production problems.

Carol added: "I had never done anything like this before but we knew this was the best way to get local information out there-something that Leys News has done really well ever since."

Eventually Leys News became the Community Interest Company that it is today and now employs three part time members of staff.

Carol added: "Right from the beginning people thought that a local newsletter was a great idea. I am very proud to have been the person who planted the seed and delighted at how Leys News has grown into the successful newspaper it is today. Projects on the Leys are successful because local people are involved in them and have a vested interest. Happy 100th edition Leys News!"

■ ***See pages 8 and 9 for a brief history of Leys News and some messages of congratulations from members of the community.***

Then and now.... Carol Richards with the first issue of Leys News and last month's 99th issue.

Curtain up for Joseph Rehearsals!

See page 3

100 issues of Leys News

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BLAP stays open longer

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Leys News
Issue100
October 2012

Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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LETTERS

Blackbird Leys branded as 'Tough'

Dear Editor,
As a loyal reader of The Sun, I was appalled to witness a finely printed segment on 'Kids taking a Latin exam in Blackbird Leys'. Now you might be questioning my offence, but not only was this article miniscule in comparison to the content of the page, it featured a snide remark towards Blackbird Leys as an estate. As follows, '11 pupils will sit a Latin exam on the tough Blackbird Leys estate.' Now, in comparison to such other crude words that could have been used to describe our community, for instance, 'rough' or 'dangerous', it seems Blackbird Leys has been branded as a state of criminality and hooliganism. Usually it would be flattering to see some form of news in relation to where I live featured in a national newspaper; however this was distasteful and discouraging.

It was pleasing however, to see that pupils today are delving into Latin; a highly cultural and out-dated language. But, this is not all Blackbird Leys should be represented by; a stab at a cultured part of academia. If you were to highlight an achievement, why criticise the background of those obtaining it? Blackbird Leys is a well rounded estate made up of hard workers and people of all backgrounds alike. We are a friendly community hosting the likes of MP Andrew Smith and BMW; an excellent car firm providing brilliant opportunities for budding engineers. No area is perfect and it is small labels like this from big names which create a negative stereotype.

Yasmine Hajji
Blackbird Leys

Congratulations

Dear Editor,
1st Blackbird Leys wants to say CONGRATULATIONS on the 100th Edition of the Leys News. Here's to the next 100!
1st Blackbird Leys Brownies

Working for charity

Dear Editor,
During the summer holidays, I decided to get involved with some charity work. I volunteered for Teenage Cancer Trust and was sent my own badge and details about where/what time to collect donations. I was surprised to find how much I enjoyed meeting people in Oxford, who stopped to donate generous amounts of money to the cause.

I have now collected twice, and I'm looking forward to starting collecting again for the charity. While doing this work it made me think how valuable this work is, it takes up very little time, and affects thousands of people's lives at the same time. Being a teenager, I am busy with work, and the preparation to start building up my university application.

This work, adds not only to my CV, but to helping me on my way to further education. I would encourage anyone, old or young, to take some time out of their lives, and volunteer for not only this cause, but for many others around Oxfordshire. Whether it is a couple of hours in a charity shop, or holding collection buckets, the experience is worthwhile, at the same time it gives you a feeling of pride and usefulness, which is priceless.

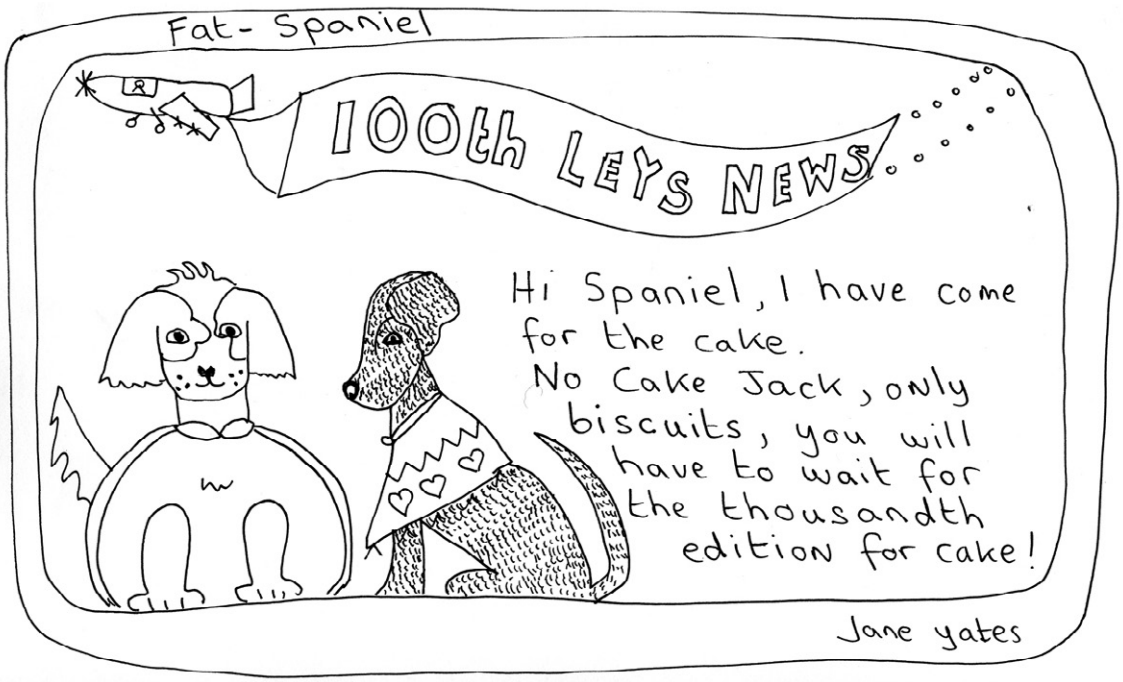
Aimee Winkfield
Greater Leys

Art competition winners

THE two winning entries of last month's colouring competition are by Miriam Agoro (*left*), aged ten, and eight-year-old Max Trinder-Jones (*below*). They both win a fabulous art set for their colourful entries.

For this month's competition turn to page 12

■ **THE lucky winner of last month's competition to win tickets to the opening night of Murder on the Nile was Rena Parkin of Greater Leys.**



Calling all community and voluntary groups in the Leys area!

The Leys Forum, 15 October 4–6.30pm

IF YOU are a member of a voluntary or community group in Blackbird Leys or Greater Leys, then the Leys Forum is just for you. The Forum is a free event for groups in the Leys area. It is an excellent opportunity for you to network with other people doing similar work to you in the Leys. It is organised by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), in partnership with Oxford City Council.

The Forum will be chaired by local City Councillor Steve Curran who help set up the Leys Community Development Initiative. Come and hear local updates from groups in the Leys area working on employment, regeneration, housing, community activities like the community market and the environment. Learn how OCVA can help support your group's work. Learn what Oxford City Council can offer voluntary and community groups working in the Leys.

The event is free, and will be held in the Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys.

■ ***You need to book a place at the event online www.ocva.org.uk/programme and look for The Leys Forum. Alternately, you can book your place by calling OCVA on 01865 251946.***

Celebrate sport on the Leys

NOMINATIONS are open for the seventh annual Oxfordshire Sports Awards which take place on Friday 23 November at the Kassam Stadium in Greater Leys.

This year's awards promise to be very special as they follow the afterglow of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games and the greatest year of British sport in living memory.

With nominations now open, it is time to start nominating those you think deserve to take centre stage at this year's awards which recognise and celebrate sporting talent and achievement across Oxfordshire.

Oxford City Council needs the help of local people to identify their local sporting heroes. Nominations are open for talented sportsmen and women and youngsters of all age groups and abilities, successful sports clubs and teams and dedicated volunteers and coaches who deserve recognition for their time and commitment.

■ **The Award Categories are:** Active Workplace Award, Club of the Year, Coach of the Year, Disability Sports Award of the Year, Junior Sportsperson of the Year, Junior Sports Team of the Year, Sportsman of the Year, Sports Team of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year, Unsung Hero and Young Volunteer of the Year.

■ ***Nominations close on Friday 5 October and forms and all the information you need is available at www.oxfordshiresport.org or email zo'neill@oxfordshiresport.org***

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
(BLNSS Ltd)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 3 October
at 6pm
At the Bullnose Morris Pub, Cuddesdon Way
A guest speaker will be talking about universal credit.
All welcome.

CURTAIN UP FOR JOSEPH REHEARSALS!

Picture left: Led by musical director, Trevor Davies, Joseph's brothers show anger to their younger 'brother' when singing about their troubled family.

TWENTY five aspiring actors have started work on a major musical production for the Leys.

Residents from across the Leys gathered in The Barn to work on theatrical exercises and to get to know each other ready for the estate's version of the musical Joseph.

Among those taking part were two families seeing the production as an activity parents and young people can share in. So far the aspiring thespians include a group from the Blackbird Leys Choir who know each other and others who signed up for a number of reasons including Teresa Mortimer.

Teresa has lived locally for over 20 years. She said: "It's the first time I've taken part in anything like this. I'm absolutely thrilled to bits to have this opportunity and if honest, a bit nervous as I can't really sing. I think Leys News is brilliant! I came home, picked up the paper and the Joseph story stood out. It was calling out for people to take part. I love to have fun and my friends tell me I'm a natural actress. I want to encourage other people to take part. It is great fun."

Trevor Davies who leads the Blackbird Leys Choir quickly had people confident enough by lunchtime to work through some of the well known songs. He said: "Collectively their sound is amazing and the show promises to be a great experience.

Although we have a good number of men we need more. Joseph was one of 12 brothers so if you are wondering about joining the cast, please come to rehearsals!"

Rehearsals are every Thursday from 6.30 to 8.30 at the Church of the Holy Family, using the door from Blackbird Leys Road. There is still time to join the production as a performer or in a support role.

■ ***For more information please contact Sasha East on 07917704320 sashaeast@yahoo.co.uk***

Exciting excavation to start in the Leys

BY HELENA CLENNETT

THE East Oxford Archaeology project will begin a month-long excavation at the Minchery Farm paddock in the Leys this month, and local volunteers are needed to help out.

Oxford City Council has agreed to the work being done to find out more about the fascinating history of the Leys. The paddock, south of the brook between the Oxford Science Park and The Priory Pub, was the site of the 12th century Minchery Priory. This was supported by the Knights' Templar until 1312, and the project team is hoping to uncover something related to it. Project Officer Jane Harrison said: "The location is interesting as it is next to the brook, so there may be a possibility of finding prehistoric landscape preserved in peat, as well as signs of Roman activity and remains of the Priory."

Volunteers do not need any experience, and are welcome to help out for a few hours or for full days, depending on the time they have available. Work will start from 8 October until the beginning of November, from 9am to 5pm, six days a week.

There will be opportunities to assist with digging, sorting finds, drawing and recording finds, or just going along to visit the site. Children are very welcome and groups such as Scouts or school parties can book tours or sessions on digging. The excavation will run throughout half-term.

An introductory meeting will be held on Monday 1 October at The Barn in the Leys at 7.30pm.

■ **To find out more contact Jane Harrison (jane@archeox.net) or Olaf Beyer (Olaf@archeox.net).**

Go ahead for Community Market

PLANS for a community market for the Leys have been given the go ahead and now a team of volunteers is urgently needed to get it up and running.

Christine McDermott from the market team said: "As we say goodbye to the summer months, life on the Leys is getting interesting. We are excited at what's in store this autumn! After many conversations and a great community meal and meeting, we're pleased to announce there's been a positive 'yes 'for the Leys Community Market, so it is planning to go ahead."

Christine added: "We have a place at the Barn, funding, to get started and stall holders with wonderful things to sell and room for more. Now we need volunteers to come and make it happen. We're looking for passionate and enthusiastic people who would like to get involved.

"You can be old, young, skilled or unskilled. Without local people it won't be possible. So if you have time to spare, even once a month for a few hours, we would love to hear from you. Come and join us on this exciting venture. We hope to open by November."

■ ***For more info, contact the Leys Community Market at: leyscommunitymarket@yahoo.com or call Katie: 01865 395960 or Christine 07914395619***

CALLING ALL FUTURE FOOTY STARS!

IT'S the autumn term and the football season is here! Greater Leys Youth Under 11s were the winners of the last years Oxford Mail Boys League sportsmanship of the year award, and they need YOU! The team is looking for boys and girls aged 9 and 10 (school year 5/6) to join next years under 11s team. Training is on Wednesday evenings at the Blackbird Leys Park (by the bowls club) from 6–7pm.

■ ***If you require any further information, please contact Ian on 07557020355***

CALLING ALL TEENAGERS!

TEENAGERS on the Leys are hoping to start a new youth club and will trial their idea later this month.

Sue Price from the Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, said: "For many years there has been a youth club at the Church of the Holy Family on Tuesday evenings.

"The club members are a close knit group of 15 and 16-year -olds. They would like, with the help of the youth leaders, to start a club for years 7 and 8 on the estate. They do not know how useful it would be but want to experiment for three weeks at the beginning of October."

On October 2, 9 and 14 there will be a club from 4.30-6.00pm in the church hall. There will be snacks and activities.

Each evening there will also be a short circle time for discussion and reflection. The price will be 50p.

■ ***More details please phone 01865 429036***

Local Neighbourhood Police Team

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

CRIME DOWN ON LEYS

LATEST figures show that crime on Blackbird Leys is down by 20 per cent.

PCSO Barry Sheehan from the Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "Official reports show that there has been a decrease in crime.

"Our team are very proud and happy of this figure as it reflects the hard work we put into the community, both fighting and preventing crimes, along with community engagement and raising the awareness of crimes within the neighbourhood."

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour in Dunnock Way, Field Avenue and Starwort Path. Some of the reports were for very minor issues that have been easily resolved upon attendance.

PCSO Sheehan said: "There have been many concerns about a property in Dunnock Way, where large groups of people have been reported to be intimidating and allegedly throwing items at members of the public passing by. We have set this area as a hot spot to patrol on every shift and deal with appropriately if any ASB is apparent. The tenant has been advised and warned of their responsibility of visitors to their property. We will also be informing their housing provider of the alleged behaviour for them to deal with accordingly."

PCSO Kate Hellenburgh has been working with local residents in a particular area in Blackbird Leys with aims of reducing ASB. After just over six months in an interim court injunction has been approved and handed to one of the residents in relation to the reported ASB and intimidation in the area.

Since this injunction was served in mid August there have been no reports of ASB. Police will be going to court in October to obtain the full injunction.

CANNABIS

There have been many reports of people smoking cannabis in communal areas such as Starwort Path and Field Avenue. PCSO Sheehan said: "On two occasions youths have been stop checked in Starwort Path. On the first stop no drugs were found. On the second, a youth aged 12 was found to be in possession of a joint of cannabis and a pouch of tobacco. These were seized from him and he will be dealt with accordingly and his parents are supportive of Police actions to date."

PREVENTION

The PCSO team has carried out a couple of crime prevention operations this month. This involves attending local facilities that has car parking and looking inside vehicles for any items that the 'would be' criminal could find interesting enough to break into the vehicle and take. This type of crime is becoming more popular as cars become more difficult to steal and owners feel the vehicle is a safe place to leave items.

PCSO Sheehan added: "During these operations we have found vehicles that are insecure, either unlocked or windows left open. Vehicles had valuable items left out on display such as; iPods, mobile phones, money, purses/ handbags, sat navs, tools etc. This causes us great concern.

"We will be writing to the registered owners of the vehicle to let them now our findings and offer some crime prevention advice. We urge all our residents that wherever and however long they park their vehicles that any valuables are placed out of sight even bags or paperwork with personal addresses. For a few seconds thought a great deal of cost and inconvenience can be saved."

NEW TEAM MEMBER

The Police Team has been increased this month with the arrival of PC Dominique Knightley who joins the team from the response shift. Dominique is excited about her new role and bringing her experiences to the team.

NOISE

The police often attend reports of noise, especially when it comes to parties, but the police do not have powers of enforcement. Noise nuisance is dealt with by the Environmental Health Department at the local council. If you are unable to speak to the person causing the issue then the contact for Oxford City Council Environmental Development is 01865 24981, or you can report it online via the Oxford City Council website www.oxford.gov.uk

CONTACT

- **To contact the neighbourhood team call the police non emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999.**
- **You can also email the team at: Leysneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk** (*please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.*)
- **If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.**
- **To view information on the team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk**
- **You can also follow the neighbourhood team on Twitter: twitter.com/tvp_bbleys**

SPAR

There for you

SPAR
Dunnock Way
Greater Leys

OPEN
7AM TILL 10PM
7 DAYS A WEEK

MR WHIPPY ICE CREAM £1.25

FREE TO USE ATM

SLUSH PUPPIES £1.25 for a Maxi Cup

EMBRACING DIVERSITY WITH OXFORDSHIRE MIND

SUPPORT OXFORDSHIRE MIND

OXFORDSHIRE MIND is holding a Halloween Party on Friday 26 October from 6.30pm onwards at The Masons Arms, 5 Park Road, North Leigh, near Witney. Tickets/entry Adults £4, Children £2. Come and enjoy a spooktacular party for both adults and children. There will be a bar, music, face painting, apple bobbing, lucky dip, fancy dress, teddy tombola, pin the nose on the witch, drawing, light refreshments and a charity raffle. Prizes for the best fancy dress. For tickets contact fundraising@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

There will be a Spooktacular Murder Mystery Dinner with optional Halloween Fancy Dress and the Oxford IMPS Comedy Group on Saturday, 27 October from 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Copa Of Oxford in George Street, Oxford. Tickets are £22 and include a three course dinner. All profits will be donated to Oxfordshire Mind. The Oxford Imps are an improvisational comedy troupe associated with Oxford University.

■ ***For more information please contact Nicky Clargo 01865 263733 nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk***

Oxfordshire Mind volunteer **Anna Scigala** shares her story of how she became involved with the Chain Reaction project.

"My journey with Oxfordshire Mind started on a grey November afternoon. I was jet lagged and feeling homesick from a recent visit to India and was walking down Walton Street when suddenly the word Mind caught my attention on a charity shop board. I was intrigued to find out more.

When I got back home, I checked their website and found out that Oxfordshire Mind has a special project called 'Chain Reaction' that targets Black and Minority Ethnic volunteers. I was so excited after reading it; I emailed their volunteering team right away requesting more information with little hope of getting a reply. But to my surprise, I got a prompt reply and also an invitation to join the monthly induction day at their office.

Within a month I found myself volunteering in a busy office environment. Initially I was delighted to have some change in my life but as the joining day approached I started feeling nervous—what if I couldn't do the office work properly? What if they can't understand my accent? But the first day went so well that I got home and called my mum in India just to say that now I have found some purpose to my life here.

The time I have spent with Oxfordshire Mind has completely transformed me from a lonely homemaker to a vibrant volunteer. I have been to many events, training programmes and a job-coaching workshop in these past six months. Soon the opportunity to participate in a Community Volunteering Course from Oxfordshire Community and Volunteering Action (OCVA) came along. The day I got the call on my mobile from the Chain Reaction Project Manager that they had selected me for the Chain Reaction Internship was certainly one of the best moments of my life in recent years.

I am enjoying every bit of my time with Mind. Every day is a combination of gaining new skills, meeting new people and learning about different cultures. The reward is priceless.

I was feeling lost in a foreign city without the comfort of my family and my friends but now I have found contentment in volunteering with a mental health charity, which not only looks after mental wellbeing of the people but also bring people from different countries together. I am really fortunate that I took the opportunity to venture into an area that was remote to me. Thank you Chain Reaction for making me and my community free from barriers and taboos."

Chain Reaction supports Black and Minority Ethnic Communities into voluntary and internship placements. MIND wants diverse volunteers to start a chain reaction to create more diverse services. Mental health problems can affect anyone from all ethnic backgrounds and the organisation wants its services to reflect this.

■ ***For more information go to www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk***

LIFE BEGINS AT 50

INTREPID Leys News Community Journalist **Jane Yates** is determined to make her 50th year the most challenging yet!

Well this month has been full of extremes, I learned to bowl and tried indoor sky diving, I definitely feel that I am trying new things now that I am fifty. I am still doing the Aqua Zumba at the Hinksey pool, which I love and I am still trying to improve my poker playing skills.

For the bowling I went along to the South Oxford Bowls club, it was a perfect sunny evening, the bowling green is well kept and there were a lot of lovely trees and flowers surrounding it, it was quite idyllic. Victor, who trains the new people showed me how to hold the woods (balls) and how to roll them. There is much more physical activity and lot of skill needed to be able to get the wood as close to the Jack, (small ball) than I had first thought. I enjoyed learning but felt I would not join until I retire as it would need a good deal of practice to be any good and I hate to do things half heartedly. Victor told me to say that anyone is welcome to come and have a go and it's free, so if you have some time on your hands I would recommend it as they seemed a friendly bunch.

INDOOR SKY DIVING

Now to the indoor sky diving, this is in Milton Keynes, the company is called AirFix, and it's quite expensive, so not something I would do again. I went with my family as a birthday treat. When we first got there, we were shown into a room and watched a short demonstration film. Then we were suited up in red and blue body suits, safety goggles, ear plugs and a crash helmet. We then walked to the air tunnel and watched the people who had booked in before us have a go. They played cheesy music and everyone including me was smiling. It was soon our turn and as I sat there just before I was about to go in I could feel the excitement growing. To get in to the tunnel of air you are told to cross your arms and tip forward, the instructor who is in the tunnel with you grabs hold of you and guides you into the centre where the air current is the strongest and lets go. It's quite hard to describe the sensation, I guess it's different for different people. I kind of felt out of it, the air was rushing up underneath me and I was floating on it, however I did not have any sensation of falling, like I had expected. The instructor maintained eye contact and gave me instructions with finger movements which we had learned from the DVD. I had four goes and I'm not sure why but felt really tired by the end of it.

Also this month I have joined a sewing class in Kennington, run by Louise Paemen www.oxfordsewinglessons.com.

Sewing with a machine is a huge challenge for me as I could not even thread one until I went to my first class. Louise starts the class off at the very basics and I was relieved to see that the other ladies in the class were just as new to sewing as me. Helen who sat next to me was still removing the wrapping from her new sewing machine as the class started, I had got a very old second hand machine that I had seen working before I parted with my £30, but as I sat in front of it now at the class it did not appear to be working. Louise came over and pointed out I had not switched it on! But after that poor start I really enjoyed the rest of the lesson, everybody was friendly and I learned loads.

Next month my friends and me are having a Roman themed day, (I hope to get photos to show you). We are dressing up in sheets and cooking Roman recipes and watching DVDs. I do love Roman DVDs all those muscly men in togas, should be a giggle. I also have an interview for a full time job, life changing or what!

CRAFT CORNER

with Jane Yates

Growing Cress Heads

THIS craft corner may take you on a trip down memory lane. I can certainly remember growing cress seeds in an old egg when I was a child.

■ **To grow the cress you need:**
Some old egg shells
Cotton wool balls
Green acrylic paint
Cress seeds

1) First rinse out the empty egg shells and leave to dry. Then give two coats of green acrylic paint. When the paint is dry draw Halloween faces on the eggs with a black felt tip pen.
2) Now add the cotton wool to the empty shell and add a little water. Then sprinkle the seeds in and put on a window sill so they can get some light.
3) The seeds take about a week to grow, keep an eye on them and add some water if getting dry. Your children are sure to love cutting the cress and putting it in a sandwich, a crafty way to get them to eat one of their five a day.

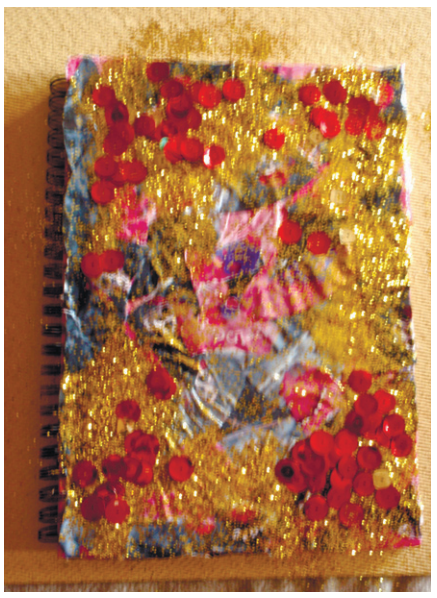
HALLOWEEN CRAFT CORNER: A book of spells

I DON'T know about you but I am not very organised when it comes to collecting recipes. Over time I have found and also changed recipes to make them better, and just jotted them down somewhere and lost them. Also my mother gave me recipes when she was alive which I have sadly long lost, so I decided to make a book especially to keep all my favourite recipes.

I wanted something bright and jazzy that I would want to keep out in the kitchen and not shoved at the back of the draw, and as it is coming up to Halloween I thought I would use that theme for it and title it, 'Spells'. Well after all cakes are magic as they make you happy!

■ ***To make the recipe book you need:***
A spiral bound note book
PVA glue (The Works is the cheapest)
Paper bun cases (The pound shop, I have used pirate and fairy cases)
Glitter and sequins
Copy of Leys News

1) First paste the cover of the book with glue, then stick a few opened up bun cases on. More glue then add ripped up pieces of the bun cases.
2) More glue, then sprinkle over the sequins and glitter. I used red and gold but green would also be nice.
3) Next cut out some text from an old copy of Leys News.
4) Leave to dry and trim off any excess paper, then all there is to do is write those recipes down in it!



Visitors to discover more with Oxford Explore

OXFORD'S new pedestrian wayfinding system, Oxford Explore, has been rolled out across the city centre.

Oxford Explore is an integrated set of signs, maps and information panels that highlight Oxford's many attractions while improving visitor confidence to explore alternative routes and discover more of the city.

The system is one of the first in the UK to combine traditional fingerposts and map panels with state-of-the-art technology that allows people to access stories, images, audio and film footage on their smartphone, revealing more about Oxford's history, architecture and culture.

Users click on a QR code or enter a simple URL to access a mobile-optimised website, where they can view vintage pictures and slideshows, listen to readings of local literature, watch archive film, hear personal accounts of city life, and read about Oxford's history and culture.

Visitors can also research their trip in advance via a companion static website,www.oxfordexplore.co.uk, where they can discover more about the different attractions and points of interest.

PET HATES

Happy anniversary (I don't think)

BY ALAN WITTON

NO, I'm not really such a curmudgeon (well not quite) that I begrudge Leys News the significant landmark of its 100th issue. Of course it isn't a "real" anniversary; the paper has gradually beefed up its publication schedule to the present all-singing all-dancing monthly edition, so we're not celebrating 100 months or anything simple like that. But it's an important historical point all the same.

I once proudly occupied the editorial chair of a periodical that had been published every month for nearly 100 years (I kid you not), including through two world wars! It was only a church magazine, and when I edited it the print run was 100 or so. But having reached 99 years and 5 months (I think), a job came up in Oxford and I had to resign my unpaid editorial chair in Manchester. My successor promptly got married and moved to America, so I don't think they ever did reach their centenary. How sad. I read their second issue, published in February 1892, in the Manchester Public Libraries. Sadly the first one had been cruelly torn out of the bound volume.

But, generally, anniversaries leave me stone cold. Birthdays were alright in my younger days; I was guaranteed a party, cake, candles, cards and perhaps even a present or two, so that was all fine and dandy. But as you get older, the incidentals of birthdays tend to fade away. Birthday cake is but a distant memory; candles, if you had them, would be so numerous you would need a storm force 10 to blow them all out in one puff; and whoever gives birthday presents to 60-something bachelors of uncertain attitude? Nowadays birthdays tend to be celebrated, if that is the right word, only by steadily disappearing hairline, teeth and other appendages. (To be fair, I do still get the odd occasional card).

I've no personal experience of wedding anniversaries, but there is a story of an absent-minded Oxford don who gets home one evening to find his wife has bedecked the house with flowers. He asks her what they are celebrating. "Have you forgotten?" she asks him. "Today is your wedding anniversary!" "Oh", he replies, "well do remind me when yours is so I can do the same for you".

Anniversaries of other events are similarly tedious, although to be fair we don't usually have to celebrate them every year. Hold your teeth in (if any) for 2015 when I guarantee the Post Office will be issuing special stamps, and the Royal Mint special coins, to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. But why should we have to wait 50 or 100 years at a time before celebrating what was admittedly one of the most important battles in European history? Even though it was fought on Belgian soil between three generals, one French, one Prussian and one British. (Incidentally when I visited the Palace of Versailles some years ago, among all the paintings of celebrated French battles, that of Waterloo was conspicuous by its absence! Probably because it was one of the few they lost). And then in 2016 we get the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings (one of the few that we lost).

History certainly behaves in strange ways. For 49 years and a few months, you can treat a famous event as if it never happened. Then suddenly all the newspapers and magazines are doing anniversary supplements to tell us all the boring facts that we could have looked up any old time in a boring history book. Yawn with knobs on. (And I speak as the proud owner of a history degree).

I'm not averse to celebrating other people's birthdays. In particular, the prospect of a theatre trip to London to celebrate the 50th birthday of a certain lady columnist filled me with delight (until I discovered that she had, not too surprisingly, chosen a younger companion). Apart from that, leave me off the anniversary bandwagon will you? In the fairly unlikely event of my reaching my 100th birthday, I shall demand the full treatment of cake, candles (hint – to support 100 candles you need a really serious size of cake!) and presents galore. Till then I shall just have to concentrate on growing old disgracefully, with a minimum of public attention. Or you could always bat me off in my disreputable bath-chair to report on a famous anniversary. The centenary of the Battle of El Alamein should do the trick.

Autumn opening for BLAP

Ramari promotes the new closing time wth mum Michelle Day and Ellise Watson

FOLLOWING a very successful summer season, The Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (BLAP) will be open until 5.30pm to help working parents with their childcare.

Sue Price from BLAP said: "We have had a great summer and the play scheme was a huge success. We asked the children to fill out sheets and they made constant comments about the fun they had had and the parents were also delighted with the reaction of the children and the many activities on offer."

Sue added: "Now the after school club is up and running for the Autumn term a new member of the committee, Deedee Wallace, suggested BLAP stays open until 5.30pm. This will give working parents a chance to pick up the children when they get home from work. We are delighted to do this and we are also running a walking bus each day from Pegasus School to BLAP."

■ ***For further information please phone Alston Quammie on 07967777412 or use the BLAP phone number 01865 236646.***

Oxford ReFashion event wins Green Apple Award

OXFORD City Council's ReFashion event has won a Green Apple Environment Award in the national campaign to find Britain's greenest companies, councils and communities.

The popular fashion event in January received over 700 visitors and was acknowledged as a highly innovative, fun and inclusive way of highlighting textile re-use and recycling options and the need to reduce textile waste sent to landfill.

Oxford City Council staff worked with Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to put on the all-day event with help and support from council officers, community group volunteers and local businesses and charities.

Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for a Cleaner, Greener Oxford, said: "I am thrilled that the ReFashion event has won a Green Apple Environment Award."

Jenny Carr, a council officer, came up with the idea of the ReFashion event and worked in partnership with OWP to make it a success.

She said: "I came up with the idea as I like second hand clothes shopping and this was an ideal way of swapping clothes. It spiralled from an event I thought I could hold with my friends to something that I thought the whole community in Oxford would benefit from."

Due to popular demand the award-winning ReFashion will now be an annual event at the Town Hall.

QUIT SMOKING WITH STOPTOBER

THIS October, the nation's eight million smokers are being encouraged to take part in the first ever mass quit attempt launched by the Department of Health, called Stoptober.

The Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service is supporting this brand new stop smoking campaign in a bid to help the people of Oxfordshire to quit.

Research shows that if you can stop smoking for 28 days you are five times more likely to stay smoke-free and Stoptober leads smokers through a detailed step-by step programme to help them achieve this goal.

The new campaign is supported by a Stoptober mobile phone app, facebook page and a stop smoking pack.

Along with the financial benefits of stopping smoking, those undertaking the 28-day programme will experience physical improvements including a better sense of smell and taste and more energy.

Smoking is the biggest cause of premature death in England and each year it accounts for over 100,000 deaths in the UK and one in two long-term smokers will die prematurely from a smoking disease.

Stoptober 2012 kicks off on Monday 1 October and runs for 28 days. The Smoking Advice Service is currently distributing Stoptober materials through all the GP surgeries and pharmacies in Oxfordshire—where trained NHS Stop Smoking Advisers are ready to help. The service will also be present at Freshers' Fairs and other local events at workplaces and children's centres.

■ For more information and to join the biggest stop smoking challenge of its kind, visit smokefree.nhs.uk/Stoptober or contact the Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service on 0845 40 80 300 for details of your local trained Stop Smoking Adviser.

GET THE RIGHT SKILLS AND SUPPORT FOR WORK AT THE LEYS JOB CLUB

BLACKBIRD Leys Community Centre will be the home of a new employability hub aimed at giving Leys residents real skills for work.

This new initiative will provide access to job opportunities, a support network from peers going through a similar experience, training and accurate advice and guidance to help jobseekers take step changes in improving their employment prospects. The service will offer traditional job support activities in job searching, CV writing, updating and revising, how to effectively complete an application form and preparing for interview with mock interview practice.

Other services include IT training and experience in using office packages, ESOL, literacy, numeracy and personal development including confidence building and re-building, effective communication and addressing barriers to employment. Through a series of events jobseekers will have the chance to meet and question organisations, employers and industry experts who will lead workshops tackling key work issues and provide practical hands on experience to give them the edge they need in today's job market.

One to one job coaching will be available to provide a tailored service to support the jobseekers needs. There will be opportunities to test these out in the work place through work experience and volunteering.

The job club is completely free and will be available two days a week at Blackbird Leys Community Centre on Wednesday and Thursdays from 10-3pm with different activities scheduled for each day. A full programme of events will be launched later in October. Details will be posted in the Community Centre.

The Job Co-ordinator Judith Chen is keen to begin job coaching to help people begin their journey into work. To arrange an appointment or for an initial chat please contact Judith at Leysjobclub@gmail.com or leave you details with staff at the community centre and Judith with contact you.

Judith is also keen to work with local employers and organisations who would like to offer work placements and job opportunities and urges employers to contact her with any opportunities they may have.

mail@leysnews.co.uk | phone: 01865 711756

Leys News 100 issues on

100 THINGS TO DO WITH LEYS NEWS!

WHEN Leys News Community Journalist Jane Yates came up with the idea of finding 100 uses for a copy of Leys News, we were a little bemused to say the least! Of course we all hope that you hang on to your copy of your newspaper for as long as possible before parting with it!

However, Jane has had some very creative thoughts for making the most of your Leys News (once you have read it of course!)

1. Put it in the recycling bin
2. Leave it in the dentist or other community place so other people can find and read it
3. Strike up a conversation with a random stranger and hand it to them
4. Post it to your friends and relatives
5. Origami, make things like a hat, box or aeroplane
6. Paper Mache, make things like pots, masks and piggy banks
7. Make new paper
8. Clean your windows with one using vinegar
9. Put in your compost bin
10. Make flower pots
11. Make a fly swatter
12. Draft excluder for windows and doors
13. Insulation for shed roofs
14. Gift wrap (*see photo*)
15. Jam labels (*see photo*)
16. Gift bags if stuck together or sewn
17. Posh designer dress
18. Wrapping allotment veg in
19. Puppy training mat
20. Cat litter
21. Pet bedding
22. Painting and decorating protection
23. Table protection for craft jobs
24. Cut out letters for craft projects
25. Make beads if cut into strips and rolled and painted
26. Cleaning silver
27. Cleaning shoes
28. Stuffing shoes to keep their shape
29. Drying shoes when wet by stuffing them
30. Standing muddy boots on
31. Wrapping breakables
32. Making flower bombs, by adding wild flower seeds to paper mache and throwing onto your garden
33. Lining hanging basket
34. Transfer the news print onto your nails using alcohol and then covering with clear varnish
35. Putting under carpets
36. Emergency curtains
37. Dog toy
38. Clip on tie
39. Party games like flap the fish
40. Ear plugs
41. Emergency pants
42. Emergency loo roll
43. Wrap your fish and chips in it
44. Make a kite with two bamboo poles
45. Indoor wig wam with bamboo poles
46. Make a bag for over your head for a bad hair day
47. Roll up in small pieces to make sleep-in hair rollers
48. Save to give to a grandchild from the year they have been born or make nice birthday cards
49. Use for local research
50. Weave to make baskets or mats
51. Putting in holes in the wall before you use plaster
52. Cool down by making a fan
53. Warm up by using as lining for coats
54. Fire bricks
55. Lighting a bonfire
56. Draw liners
57. Toy money for children's games
58. Roll in a tube and make a megaphone

59. Roll in a tube to make a toy telescope
60. Roll in small long thin tubes and make a coil basket
61. Mulch to rot down for growing runner beans
62. Make Christmas crackers using newspaper and loo roll middles
63. Make crowns to go into Christmas crackers
64. Cut out fat spaniel cartoon to use instead of jokes for the Christmas crackers
65. Insoles for shoes
66. Crush it up into balls to play indoor basket ball with a bin
67. Make paper flowers
68. Make a book mark
69. Cut out what's on information and put on the fridge
70. Teach someone to read
71. Sit on while on the beach
72. Cover your head in the rain or sun
73. Car window sun screen
74. Shadow puppets
75. Paper toilet seat covers
76. Cover books
77. Clean paint brushes
78. Roll up paper and cut edges to make pretend trees
79. Paper chains
80. Attach to string and make paper flags
81. Make a windmill
82. Put on a park bench before you sit on it
83. Make a collage
84. Wrap up a friend, just for a laugh!
85. Do some finger print painting
86. Use to stuff a paper bag and draw a face on and put in the window for Halloween
87. Fold and cut out snow flakes
88. Cut out images and make a mobile
89. Potato printing
90. Fold and stick to make a Halloween trick or treat bag
91. Make a Pinata
92. Make a paper lantern
93. Curl strips of newspaper and make ribbons
94. Use to dry flowers and leaves with a heavy book on top
95. Cut out paper patterns for use in dress making
96. To put down on spills to mop up
97. Rip up finely and use to grow cress seeds on
98. If you have a lot of money you can buy a machine that will turn old newspapers into pencils.
99. If you can spin, make it into yarn.
100. If you save up enough, sell it. Go to www.alibaba.com/showroom/old-newspaper.html to see more ideas.

Thank you for everybody who contributed to the ideas for this article.

BY LEYS NEWS EDITOR SARAH EDWARDS

WHEN I joined the Leys News team three years ago I knew that I had some pretty hard acts to follow and that I was working in an area of Oxford that presented some unique challenges to any reporter.

Having worked for numerous local newspapers, national and regional papers including The Oxford Mail, as well as freelancing for magazines and spending five years as a television researcher and producer I knew I had the experience and skills to do the job. What I wasn't prepared for was the incredibly warm welcome that I was to receive.

I could not have been made more welcome and on my very first day was invited to lunch by a group of Afro-Caribbean women. I was blown away by their kindness, hospitality and friendliness and after that experience-I was hooked and determined to make a success of my time here as Editor.

Starting work in a new area is always a bit daunting and as a reporter with many years of news reporting under my belt, I remembered only too well the troubled times on the Leys. It was made very clear to me very quickly that the Leys should be known for a lot more than joy riding and ram raiding, and I know that today it is.

Since I joined Leys News I have made many friends and learned a great deal about other people's lives-good and bad. Being Editor of your newspaper provides a fantastic opportunity to meet people who have achieved amazing things in their lives, have battled through adversity and who give generously of their time and experience to help others.

Working for national newspapers and in television for many years was fantastic and I know I was very lucky to have done that, but working on the Leys is the real deal and what truly hyperlocal journalism is all about.

I am delighted to be able to say congratulations to everyone who has been involved with the paper during its 16 year history. Whether you have volunteered with us, delivered our newspaper, taken photos, written stories, sold advertising space, designed our pages or had the rare privilege of being the Editor-it is thanks to ALL of you and ALL of our readers that Leys News continues to go from strength to strength.

Hyperlocal journalism continues to grow in importance and in an age when so many local newspapers struggle to keep going and are switching to online versions of their publications, we are proud to still be in print.

In the last three years, Leys News has evolved from a bi-monthly newspaper to a monthly newspaper. Our business model is now so finely tuned that we have been asked to roll out community newspapers in other areas of Oxford and are proud to be helping teams in Rose Hill, Barton, Wood Farm and Cowley to produce their own hyperlocal papers.

Our partners at Oxford Brookes University continue to support us and without them we would be unable to provide free community journalism training to groups across the city.

Our success has spread even further afield with communities in Wiltshire and Berkshire now calling on us to provide them with the skills to start their own newspapers.

Leys News is an evolving success story and as your current Editor I would like to thank you for your continued support-without our loyal readers there would be no point in producing your newspaper every month.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy this very special edition of YOUR community newspaper.

A DESIGN FOR LIFE

By Leys News Page Designer Julian Dourado

I BEGAN working on the design and laying the pages of Leys News in 2006. From the start my approach was to make the paper appear professional enough to attract much needed advertising and sponsorship, while keeping it from looking like some cold heartless corporate publication. Also, unlike any commercial free newspaper full of ads with minimal content, the balance in Leys News is always much more in favour of relevant content for the reader. As Leys News is a community newspaper I always try to make sure its pages are as accessible as possible. Because of this you will find the type size in Leys news is noticeably bigger than most other newspapers so making it more accessible for dyslexic readers and people with sight problems. Leys News is always full of interesting stories and useful information. Generally I think that a clear, consistent, well ordered, unfussy design makes this content a lot more approachable for any reader.

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE MONEY!

By Leys News Business & Community Development Manager John Charlton

THE last two years has certainly been an interesting time to be involved with Leys News and the development of community newspaper projects. At a time of cuts and economic recession, community newspapers seem to be bucking the trend and are flourishing. As you know we have increased our frequency to monthly and we now help many other community newspapers all over Oxford and beyond. Why is this happening and more importantly how is this happening? I believe the answer to this is the very essence of these newspapers. They are run as not for profit social enterprise organisations, owned and operated by the local community. They are led by volunteers who are passionate about producing relevant and important local news. They create opportunities for local residents to improve their skills and education while at the same time enjoying being part of an exciting and fast moving project. It is not all about the money, it is about people; the community journalists who write the stories, the photographers, the office volunteers and the distributors.

That is why community newspapers and particularly Leys News are here to stay and will continue to grow from strength to strength.

The first ever issue of Leys news from 1996

Leys news goes tabloid! The Autumn 2000 issue

LEYS News has always been well supported by the community, and this month is no different! To mark our 100th edition rolling off the press, some of our favourite people have sent in some lovely messages.

• Congratulations on the 100! edition—what a fantastic achievement for an outstanding free community paper. The Leys without the Leys News—unimaginable! 5000 free copies delivered to every household every month on the Leys —a unique success story.

Thank you to everyone involved over the years, the dedicated trustees, the hardworking and enthusiastic staff and the many, many committed and inspiring volunteers, all of them have been putting their hearts, their expertise, their professionalism, their ideas, their time, their appreciation and love for the Leys Community into the Leys News. If you would like to know what is going on in the Leys, just read the Leys News.

Ines Kretzschmar,
Community Involvement Coordinator
Blackbird Leys Housing Consortium

• Congratulations Leys News on your first 100 issues that have shown your loyalty to the people of The Leys. Thanks too for partnering with the Church of the Holy Family in the summer of 2011 when you worked with us and together stimulated over 80 scarecrows to celebrate the ingenuity of their designers when they assembled on the church green. With our new vicar, Heather Carter, we look forward to more joint ventures for the benefit of the peoples of The Leys.

Russell Price, *Church Secretary*

• Congratulations, The Leys News is a great news story in its own right and continues to make the headlines for community journalism across Oxford.

Clayton Lavallin,
Oxford City Council

• Many congratulations to the Leys News on achieving the 100th edition

David Baron,
The Oxford Academy

• The Leys Children's Centre is delighted to congratulate Leys News on reaching 100 editions. We would like to thank Leys News for their continuing support of the Children's Centre.

Vallerie O'Malley,
The Leys Childrens' Centre

• Congratulations—what an achievement.

Lois Muddiman,
Team Leader,
Communities and Neighbourhoods,
Oxford City Council

• Your all doing a great job, well done!

Natasha Mighty,
Go Active Activator,
Active Women

• Many congratulations on your 100th edition and we look forward to many more!

Gill Jaggers,
Head of Marketing,
Pegasus Theatre

• Leys news is an amazing paper and serves the community so well. It has grown from strength to strength. The articles are about real people in the community and what they are achieving. We support Leys news as and hope to support the paper in the future.

Sobia Afridi,
Outreach Community Co-ordinator,
UK Recruitment and Partnerships,
Oxford Brookes University

• Congratulations Leys News for being a fantastic read and getting better and better all the time. Joseph and the technicolor dreamcoat is a project that has benefited by being able to spread the word through Leys News so a big thank you for that.

Sasha East

HalloweeN
AT TEMPLARS SQUARE

Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st October 2012 ✸ 1100-1500

Pumpkin giveaway

PLUS

Balloonatics

Balloon modellers
Wednesday 31st October 2012 ✸ 1100-1500

Face painter

Wednesday 31st October 2012 ✸ 1100-1500

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MICHAEL ROSEN AT THE STORY MUSEUM

POPULAR poet, author and broadcaster Michael Rosen will be hosting a series of conversations with some of Britain's foremost story experts during the Story Museum's autumn/winter season.

The former Children's Laureate is the Museum's curator of stories, and is helping to build its collection of the 1001 stories that have shaped our world, and continue to inspire and delight us today. He will be talking to writers, professors, poets, psychoanalysts and other experts to discover their opinions on what should be included in the collection—and to explore the role that stories old and new, universal and personal, play in shaping their work and life.

He will also be asking audiences of all ages for their suggestions both at Story Museum events, and via digital media. These 'story-catching' sessions aim to provoke discussion and encourage us to think more clearly about our relationship with stories in all their forms—spoken and written, drawn, dramatised and digital.

Co-director Kim Pickin said: "Most museums build stories around their collections. We're building our collection around our stories—and we want to involve everyone in the process."

The Story Museum will also be hosting a series of related story performances alongside The Thousand and One Project.

Also at The Story Museum on Friday 19 October at 8pm is The Garden of Prometheus.

Music, speech and song bring to life the creation myths of the ancient Greeks—from the first stirrings of chaos to the last day of the flood. Story performance by Chris Smith. For adults and children aged 12+ £10 (£8.)

A small amount of £6 standby tickets will be available on the day.

■ For more information on all events ring 01865 790050 or visit www.storymuseum.org.uk

Events, Activities and Exhibitions

African Drumming
Beginners' djembe classes for adults in a friendly class. 6.30–8.00pm, Mondays until 28 January 2013. £6.50 (£5.50 conc.)
Fusion Arts, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford OX4 1DD.
Tel. 07811041308

Art Workshops For 7–11 Years
With Claudia Figueiredo. Draw, build, design, sculpt and have fun at Children's Art Workshops.
Mondays, 4.00–5.30pm, £6.50/£3.50
Magdalen Road Studios,
74 Magdalen Road, Oxford.
Tel. 079908 35557

The Sistine Floor
Floor artwork celebrating the discovered accelerating expansion of our universe.
10am–3pm. Runs until Tue 16 October.
Ark T Art Centre, Crowell Road, Cowley, Oxford.
Tel. 01865 396778.

Oxford Ukuleles
Informal ukulele workshop session. All levels welcome. Mondays 7.30pm–10pm. £5 (first session free)
The Port Mahon, 82 St Clements, Oxford.
Portmahonmusic@yahoo.co.uk
Tel. 01865 790970.

A night of murder and mystery

Review by John Charlton:
Murder on the Nile
by Agatha Christie
At the Oxford Playhouse

THERE have been numerous television and film versions of Agatha Christie's dramas over the years so it was a great treat to see a live performance of one her well known mysteries Murder on The Nile at the Oxford Playhouse.

Set on a river cruise down the river Nile in Egypt in the 1930s the play is full of intrigue and mystery. As the characters come together over cocktails and dinner they soon discover they know more about one another than they first thought. Soon the wealthy heiress Kay Mostyn is discovered dead in her cabin shortly followed by the death of her maid.

As ever with Agatha Christie plays there are many turns and twists to the story as the plot develops. After two murders on the cruise it was difficult to know who the real suspect was. To our surprise there was more than one murderer and all was not revealed until the very end of the play with the usual coming together of the main players. Of course like all good murder mysteries I am not allowed to tell you who did it as that would spoil the fun but it certainly was a very entertaining evening.

Sadly the main star of the play Kate O'Mara was unwell so had to be replaced at short notice with her understudy Vanessa Morley. Vanessa was wonderful as Miss ffoliot-ffoulkes, the cantankerous spinster with the peculiarly spelt name.

It was good to see such a packed theatre on the opening night for this popular play.

Come ye all to the Flying Circus!

SHOW off your musical skills or poetic genius at Sparky's Flying Circus. The twice weekly open mic night, said to be the most embracing and eclectic show of its kind, is run at two different venues in East Oxford. On Tuesdays its held at the James St Tavern and on Thursdays it can be found at the Half Moon in St Clements. Both nights start at 9.00pm, and are open to first time novices and seasoned performers alike.

Host MC Sparky, otherwise known as Mark Aitken, founded the circus 11 years ago and has run it since. He told Leys News: "When back in the 1990s I was running and indeed attending many open mic venues, I was very conscious of performers' complaints of open mic nights being too precious and stuffy and seriously overweighed by political correctness: in all but name a closed mic. The realisation and reaction to this truth underpinned what an open mic should truly be—not closed, but open —and Sparky's Flying Circus was born."

MC Sparky, the Dangerous Poet, host of the Flying Circus

The Leys
FUN DAY
to be opened by
Andrew Smith MP
Fun for all the family
www.oxford.gov.uk
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
12pm to 4pm
Saturday 29 September
at Leys Community Centre
Blackbird Leys Road
Oxford OX4 6HW
- Prizes
- Games
- Face painting
- Fire Engine
- Climbing Wall
- Food

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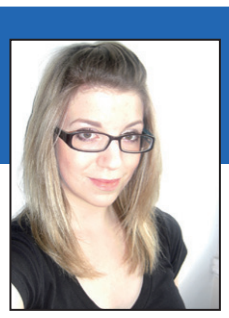


Fashion on the Leys

with Natalie Wallace

Charity begins in your wardrobe!

BLACK sweaters. Grey pencil skirts. How dull. New season clothes on the high street can be incredibly boring, until they clear away the sale rails and crack out the good stuff towards the end of October. Until such time, rifling through the charity shops is great for finding fun, unique outfits on the cheap and don't think you can't find anything fashionable among a rack of granny's old nighties because you can!

Embellishments around necklines are big news and sparkly brooches are going to be even bigger. Brooches will replace the statement necklace and collars as the accessory to pair with absolutely everything. The new way to wear brooches is to get five or six and pin them in a cluster on a shirt collar or breast pocket but just one solitary super brilliant fab brooch will look lovely and elegant. I've pinned mine on a camouflage jacket I found in a charity shop for less than a fiver and although it's about three sizes too big and potentially once belonged to a man, I find it works with a big belt (also found at said charity shop) to cinch in all that extra fabric and create a feminine looking shape. Military looks will be all over the high street yet again as one of the most wearable trends of Autumn/Winter but this time, the look has been prettified with studs, embroidery, jewels. Basically, anything that'll give a plain shirt or dress some extra 'wowzer'.

For the last couple of weekends there have been stalls in the Templar Square shopping centre where you can pick up some gorgeous vintage brooches for very reasonable prices. Go right now. Quickly. I'll race you.

■ Make the most out of your charity shops:

- Size never matters. Big jumpers, jackets and dresses can be pulled in with a belt, hems which are too long can be cut and sewn and oversized clothes are on trend.
- Experiment and cross dress. Shop on the men's rail, clash patterns, mix up separates, don't over think it and definitely have fun doing it.
- Keep an open mind. Don't try to find something specific, you'll never find what you're looking for and you might miss out on that elusive charity shop find.
- Know your key trends. The beauty of fashion trends is what goes around, inevitably comes around. You're likely to find trendy has-beens which can be reinvented for now for a fraction of the cost. This season look out for vintage chunky knit jumpers and leather skirts.
- Raid the accessory and jewellery rail. Small details like scarves, necklaces and bags can transform an outfit and make your high street gear look totally unique. If you are having a bad shopping day, you can always rely on the accessory rail.

Get party ready with Autumn's new looks!

■ Lily Lolo mineral blush (£7.29) and mineral eye shadow (£5.29) from lilylolo.co.uk

Frankly, with a brand name so cute I could weep kittens, how could I resist? Both the blush and the eye colour are easy to apply if not a little messy. It's best to tip some powder into the lid before dipping your brush in as you could end up putting way too much onto your skin. The colours are strong and have a slight glimmer to them making them perfect for parties if you don't want to go OTT on the shimmer and glitter.

■ W7 magnetic nail polish (£4.95) stocked at New Look

At first I thought the 'magnetic' aspect was referring to the colour then out of the box, fell a small, square, actual magnet. The idea is that you paint on the polish, hold the magnet close to the nail and a swirly, marble effect pattern will appear. It works. The pattern isn't necessarily as defined as some intricate nail art designs but if you're after something that looks fun and doesn't take hours to do, then this is the perfect party trick for your nails.

■ Smooch Lipstick (£7.50) from smoochcosmeticsuk.com

Here's another product with totally adorable packaging. The retro, girly design of the lipstick will make it a permanent fixture in your clutch bag. What I loved most, was these lipsticks contain beeswax and mineral oil meaning that they have a moisturising quality while wearing and don't leave behind lipstick stained cracks along your lips when it eventually comes off. The Merlot shade is perfect for party time as it's a gorgeous bright pink shade with a glittery shimmer.

■ Natio Sparkle Dust (£13) and Ultra Shiny Fruit Gloss (£8) available at Debenhams

So first the sparkle dusts, the range of colours complement each other and blend beautifully together if you are using them as eye shadow. The staying power is great too. Although I wore it during the day, I have no doubt this make up would still be intact when you get home after a sweaty drinking/dancing all night session while the rest of your face may be running down your dress. The Fruit Gloss firstly, smells devine. I tried the Coconut flavour and the soft champagne colour mixed with the glitter gave a mega glossy, super sparkly shine. This gloss is a sticky one though, beware all those who are after a sneaky kiss!

Kids' Halloween colouring competition

Name:
Age:
Name of parent or guardian:
Day time phone number:
Address:

THIS month two lucky readers have the chance to win a brilliant 91-piece art set, so get those pens and pencils out and get creative!

Just colour in these three witches, then send your entries to:

Kids' Colouring Competition
Leys News
26, Kingfisher Green,
Greater Leys
Oxford
OX4 7BX

The most creative entry we recieve by Monday 17 September wins!

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please call Sobia Afridi on 01865 484886

Leys Learning

GET THE JOB YOU WANT!

Free support sessions on the Leys

NEW sessions by The Education, Training and Career Advice Centre are now available on the Leys to help people back to work and into a job that they really want.

Help is available to improve your CV, fill in or check your job application, prepare you for an interview, help you search for jobs, offer careers advice, information about courses and setting short term and long term personal targets.

The sessions are informal drop in sessions for everyone who would like to get into training or get a job. They are one to one sessions, and are open to everybody every Monday afternoon between 12–4.30pm on a first come first serve basis at Catalyst Housing, The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys.

Catalyst Housing in partnership with EMBS are supporting Blackbird Leys residents to get the jobs and/or training they want. Apart from giving careers advice EMBS offers a range of courses to help people raise confidence, develop new skills, find employment and progress onto higher education.

Ines Kretzschmar Community Involvement Coordinator for the Blackbird Leys Housing Consortium said: "Catalyst hopes that the friendly and helpful job advice drop in sessions will become as popular as the Agnes Smith Advice drop in sessions in the Farmhouse. So we would urge people to just come along as a little help can make all the difference in landing you the right job or training."

Courses, Workshops and Opportunities

ABLE CENTRE

Free courses in Maths and English

Improve your skills and get a recognised qualification. Able Centre, Blackbird Leys Library.

To book a time to come in call 01865728688

Ethnic Minority Business Services

Tyndale House, Second Floor, 134b Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JQ.

EMBS provides training for the unemployed, learning services for both adults and young people (ages 16–18) and business courses for local businesses.

Call 07865 794431

INVITATION

Ruskin College Grand Opening and Gala Evening

Saturday 27th October 2012

10.00 a.m. – 8.30 p.m.

You are warmly invited to join in the celebrations as we formally open our new and redeveloped facilities in Old Headington, Oxford, where the whole of Ruskin College is now based.

All-day events include opportunities to tour the new building and visits to the walled garden together with displays, activities, a new café and much more. Come for all or part of the day – we'd love to see you!

There is no charge. Just come along!

ruskincollege
learning to make a difference

Ruskin Hall • Dunstan Road • Old Headington • Oxford OX3 9BZ
For information on venue: www.ruskin.ac.uk

News from BLITZ

IT courses still FREE with Blitz!

- **Would you like to improve your IT skills?**
- **Would you like to improve your work prospects?**
- **Would you like help to get a Job?**

If yes then phone now to find out about our courses.

DROP IN TIMES:
(FREE access to the internet for all adults)
Monday: 12.30–3.00pm
Tuesday: 12.30–3.00pm
Friday: 12.30–3.00pm

Do you want to help your community?
BLITZ is currently looking for voluntary teaching assistants with basic IT skills

For more information call 01865 714492

Blackbird Leys IT Hub
Leys Linx Centre, Blackbird Leys Community Centre

Opportunities to study in Oxford
ruskincollege
learning to make a difference

The Open University Approved Institution

Let Ruskin College change your life!

Ruskin College Oxford offers:

- a second chance in education, even without qualifications
- the opportunity to learn with other adults
- plenty of support from tutors
- a diverse student body committed to equality
- short courses restarting in September - preparation for work or study

Places still available for September 2012

It's not too late to apply for a FREE* one-year course starting in October!

Want a degree but have no previous qualifications?
If the answer is YES, then Ruskin College, Oxford is for you!

For a full list of courses that Ruskin has to offer, visit our website or to speak to someone, contact the details below.

01865 759600
admissions@ruskin.ac.uk

For short courses contact:
01865 759632
shortcourses@ruskin.ac.uk

Follow us on:

Ruskin College
Walton Street
Oxford
OX1 2HE

*if you are aged 19+, study full time, haven't had HE funding and have lived in the UK for 3+ years

scan me

www.ruskin.ac.uk

Ruskin College is approved by The Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University validated awards.

St. John's Home Fun Day Sale!

Saturday 6th October 2012
11.00 am - 4.00 pm
St. John's Home
Fun For All The Family!

- *Stalls*
- *Entertainment*
- *Real Life Owls!*
- *Bouncy Castle*
- *Raffle*
- *Games*
- *Aunt Sally*
- *Coconut Shy*
- *Hot Dogs/ Burgers!*
- *Refreshments*

Come & join in the fun in the grounds of St. John's Home, Magdalen Road, East Oxford.

~ In aid of our Roving Residents Minibus Appeal ~

St. John's Home, St. Mary's Road, Oxford, OX4 1QE (01865 247725)
www.stjohnshome.org.uk e-mail: admin@st-johns-home.org

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

■ Parish Council

Chairman: Gordon Roper;
Vice Chair: Brian Lester;
Non-position holders: Tanya Prescott, Chris Hatton, Cyril Martin, Mrs Ann Booker, Mrs Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard, Rae Humberstone (*see City Council section below*), Gerry Webb

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Parish Council, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Also check leysonline.net to find out about Parish Council Meetings.

■ Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward

■ Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
valsmith@gmail.com
or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
(*her city councillor entry*)

■ Rae Humberstone – *Labour*
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
☎ 01865 779678
cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uks

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes—ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward

■ Steve Curran – *Labour*
88 Fairacres Road, Oxford, OX4 1TG
☎ 07941 785538
StephenCurran55@yahoo.co.uk

■ Scott Seamons – *Labour*
Flat 14, 113 Oxford Road, Oxford OX4 2GY
☎ 07910 595047
cllrsseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Steve Curren and Scott Seamons have a surgery at 6.30pm on the first Monday of the month at the Clockhouse.

■ Oxfordshire County Council

Leys & Lye Division

■ Val Smith – *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

■ Richard Stevens – *Labour*
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
☎ 07725 353031
richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

■ Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament for Oxford East

■ Andrew Smith – *Labour*
Unit A, Bishops Mews,
Transport Way, Oxford OX4 6HD
☎ 01865 595790
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every third Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

WHAT'S ON in the Leys

A quick guide to what's available locally. If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

ADVICE

■ Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am–12pm.
☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

■ BLAP: Afterschool club
Outdoor and indoor activities for yrs 8–13 in a structured environment.
3.00–5.15pm. £1 per session (5 sessions for £4.00)
☎ 07530933690
and 01865 236646

■ Breastfeeding Café
Mondays, 1.00pm–2.00pm at Leys Children's Centre, Cuddesdon Corner.
☎ Camille, 0789 995 8316

■ Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.

■ Brownies:
Thurs, Holy Family Church Hall.
☎ Jennifer Pleass 07886 757338.

■ Dovecote Afterschool Club
Mondays–Thursdays, 3.15pm–5.00pm, £1.30 per session.
☎ 01865 712299

■ Maluchy group
for Polish speaking families with children ages 0 to 5 years. Saturday, 10.00am–11.30am, at Pegasus School.
☎ Agata, 07874 187 704

■ 35th Oxford Scout Group
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353
duncan@35thoxford.com

■ Leys Kiddie Club
Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri, 9.30am–2.30pm, at Dovecote Family Drop-in Room. £1.

■ Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force
Thursdays, 7.30–9.30p at Sandy Lane West. Boys and girls ages 13 to 18.
☎ 01869 259681

■ Mother and Toddler Bounce
Trampoline Sessions suitable for mothers and toddlers held on Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am. Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.
☎ Fiona, 07891 419793

■ Strawbery Fayre Majorettes
Training every Wednesday at the Barn in Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys, 7.00–9.15pm. Taking on new members any time of the year.
☎ Eleen Filer 01865 717781

Rainbows
For girls aged 5 to 7. Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way.
☎Alexandra, 07804 500313.

Teenage Rounders Class
Tuesdays, 4.00–5.00pm £1.20. For 14–18 year olds Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

EDUCATION

Blackbird Leys Library
Cuddesdon Way.
Books, DVDs, audio books, use of computers for adults and children, photocopying, reading group, holiday activities.
Opening times:
Mon, Wed, Thur: 9am–12pm and 1.30–5pm
Tue: 9am–12pm
Sat: 9.30am–12.30pm
Friday Closed

■ Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English.
☎ Nicky, 01865 728688

■ Blitz IT Courses
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.
☎ 01865 714492

LEISURE

■ Irish dancing.
Sacred Heart Hall. Weds and Thurs, 5pm.

■ Boxing Club.
Tues and Thurs 7.30–9.00pm, at Youth Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.
☎ Tony Gibson, 01865 432995

Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road.
General swimming times are:
Mon & Fri, 5.45–6.45pm;
Sat & Sun, 11.15am–1.00pm, & 1.30–2.30pm
Prime Time for over 50s:
Mon, 12–1.00pm;
Wed, 11.30–12.30pm
Water Workout:
Tue and Fri, 12–1.00pm
Slimming World
Thurs, 12–1.00pm
☎ 01865 467040

BBL Leisure Centre
Zumba:
Mondays, 10.30–11.30am
Body Balance:
Tuesdays, 11.00–12.00pm
Legs, Bums, Tums:
Wednesdays, 10.15–11.15am
Body Pump:
Thursdays, 9.30–10.30am
Pilates:
Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am
Boxercise:
Fridays, 10.30–11.30am
Overs 50s indoor cycling:
Mondays, 11.30–12.15pm
☎ 01865 467020

OLDER PEOPLE

■ Prime Time Over 50s group
Wednesdays, 10.30am - 3.30pm, at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre,
Pegasus Road (£1.50). Keep fit, bingo, indoor bowls, speakers, activities and trips.
☎ 07534 740589

■ Golden Circle
☎ Bernard Tucker, 460592

■ Silver Circle
☎ 435954 (Blackbird Leys Community Centre)

The Clockhouse
see box on opposite page

■ Monday lunch club
☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

■ Leys Community Church Over 60s Club
Wednesday afternoons.
☎ Keith Templar, 715815

■ Grandparents' Stay & Play
Bring your grandchildren to the Leys Childrens Centre drop-in, specially for grandparents. Weds 1–3 pm at the Dovecote.

WELLBEING

■ Skiptrix Fitness Class
Get fit, tone and lose weight. Thursdays, 6.30–7.15pm at the Ark T Centre, Cowley.
Satudays, 10–10.45am at the Barn, BBLeys. £4.00 per class.
☎ Trish, 07957754355
trishwisdom@yahoo.co.uk

■ Slimming World
Thursdays, 5.15pm and 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
☎ Gill, 01865 730009

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach new customers in your local area with a Leys News Classified ad. Advertise your business from as little as £10 per issue (when booking for 12 months). To book your space ring John on 01865 711756

BUSINESS SERVICES

Does your business need a boost?
We offer a cost effective writing service for small businesses, and provide copywriting, press releases, web content and newsletters.
mediabird@btinternet.com
☎ 07966 523662

FOR SALE

Little Steps Clothing
Children / babies fashion clothing at low prices.
Littlestepsclothing.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

Calvin Pennant
71 Long Lane, Oxford OX4 3TN
☎ 07960 328170

Hawtin Electrical
☎ 07811 401279
jameshawtin@hawtin-electrical.co.uk
www.hawtin-electrical.co.uk

CLEANING

Solo Assist Domestic Cleaning Services
(including end of tenancy).
☎ Marilyn on 01865 308067 or 07990 630332

CARERS

Acquire Care
Oxford Science Park, OX4 4GP
Tel: 01865 338050

COMPUTERS

Friendly Computer Support
☎ 01865 469069
& 07884 318 464
efaria@gmx.co.uk

FAST/TAKEAWAY FOOD

Chillies Indian Cuisine
Dunnock Way, OX4 7EX
☎ 01865 775849

Dominos Pizza
57 Between Towns Rd, OX4 3LR
☎ 01865 777137

Papa John's Pizza
80 Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HS
☎ 01865 402050

Pizza Hut
3 Courtlands Rd, Rose Hill, OX4 4HS
☎ 01865 236116

Pizza Polo
34 Cowley Rd, Littlemore OX4 4LD
☎ 01865 425630

FLORISTS

Joe Austin
174 Cowley Road, OX4 6NQ
☎ 01865 792037

The Garden
99-100 The Market, OX1 3YD
☎ 01865 240709

GARDENS

Acorn Nursery
Stadhamptom, Oxford
☎ 01865 891663

Oxford Garden Centres
South Hinksey, OX1 5AR
☎ 01865 326066

Pathway Workshop
Dunnock Way, OX4 7EF
☎ 01865 714111

Wyevale Garden Centre
Suthern-By-Pass, Oxford
☎ 01865 326066

JOBS

Start your own business
with Neals Yard Remedies. For more info call Katie 395960
kches2001@yahoo.com

HAIRDRESSERS

Hair & Body Shop
Ozone Park, Grenoble Rd, OX4 4XP ☎ 01865 775817

Beyond Hair & Beauty
94 Blackbird Leys Rd, OX4 6HS
☎ 01865 778709

HEALTH & BEAUTY

ZUMBA Fitness Party
Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at The Oxford Academy School, Sandy Lane West. Parking & Large Venue.
Party Yourself into Shape! Latin inspired dance fitness. £5 per class (5 classes in a row for price of 4!)
Great music & easy to follow. Wiggle & Giggle yourself fit!
☎ 07714 248177
zumbasarahoxford@gmail.com
www.zumbasarahoxford.com

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Qualified, Professional, Experienced. *Great Results*
Ladies cut & blow dry . . . £15.00
Men's cut £8.00
Childlren £6.00
Perms (*including cut*) £38.00
Highlights (*including cut*) . . . . . from £38.00
☎ Jenny, 01865 776777 & 07501 787 123

Bathe in Beauty
The Ozone Health and Fitness Club,Kassam Stadium
☎ 01865 335300
www.batheinbeauty.co.uk

Phyllida Chappell
Holistic Therapist.
1 Forget-me-not Way, OX4 7ZD
☎ 01865 749220
phyllidachappell@yahoo.com
www.holistictherapistoxford.co.uk

PLUMBERS

Roy Barrett, 154 Herschel Cres, Oxford OX4 3TY
☎ 01865 242641

Safe Heating & Plumbing
37 Druce Way, OX4 6TJ
☎ 01865 772303

TAXIS

ABC
70A Hollow Way, OX4 2NH
☎ 01865 597029

Air Link Oxford
24 Vicarage Close, OX4 2NH
☎ 01865 434040

Oxford Cars
Regus, 7200 The Quorum, OX4 21Z ☎ 01865 406070

WINDOW CLEANERS

MRF
37 Green Hill, OX4 7UD
☎ 01865 599812

Taylors Windows
Greater Leys
☎ 01865 773486

■ **Men's Group**
Join us for a regular end of day in a relaxed and friendly environment. Learn stress management tools and use this space to talk with other men and organise activities together.
Wednesdays, 5.30–8.00pm
Cowley Wellbeing Centre
26 Between Towns Road
☎ Duncan / Lanre
07435 760 809
01865 749998

■ **The Listening Centre**
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford.
Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre.
☎ 01865 794794

■ **Survivors**
Fridays and Saturdays, Blackbird Leys Community Centre.
9.30am–3.30pm. All welcome.
A self-help group of people who use or have used Mental Health Services, working together to get support for, to share experiences and to press for greater awareness of the needs of survivors.
Lunch available for £1.
Pudding 50p. Breakfast from 50p.
Card making. Table top sales.
☎ 07729 581975

■ **Yoga For All**
Experienced Yoga teacher, starting a new class.
☎ Linda Highland on 01865 432570

■ **ZUMBA Fitness Party**
Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at The Oxford Academy School, Sandy Lane West.
Great music & easy to follow.
Wiggle & Giggle yourself fit!
☎ 07714 248177
zumbasarahoxford@gmail.com
www.zumbasarahoxford.com

NETWORKING

■ **Leys WI**
Meets at the Clockhouse on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm.
☎ To find out more call Rachel Fisher on 07528 433199
www.theleyswi.moonfruit.com

OTHER EVENTS

If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

Diary Dates

Saturday 29 September
Your Community, Your Centre, Get Involved Event on Leys.

Wednesday 3 October
AGM of the Agnes Smith Advice Centre. 6pm at the the Bullnose Morris Pub. *See notice on page 2 for more details.*

Thursday 4 October
Annual General Meeting of SILGO. *See box below of details.*

Monday 15 October
The Leys Forum, 4.00–6.30pm. *See Page 2*

Tuesday 30 October
Parish Council Meeting
Jack Argent Room, 7.00pm
For details call 01865 716943

Friday 23 November
Christmas Light Night.
The official Christmas light switch on for the City of Oxford. The event will comprise of processions, late night opening of university museums, galleries and shops and a host of Christmas markets and festive activities.

Active Women

As part of the autumn Open Weekend 29 and 30 September Active Women will have a variety of sports taster sessions for women and girls aged 16+

Come along and try it's all for FREE:

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6JL

11am–12pm	**Netball** (*Saturday and Sunday*)
12–1pm	**Basketball** (*Saturday and Sunday*)
12–1pm	**Adult Street Dance** (*Saturday Only*)

To book a place contact 01865 467 020

■ **Active Women: regular sessions at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre**

■ **Badminton**
Tuesdays, 7–8pm (family session)
£3.20 per session (adult) and £2.20 per session (child)

Wednesdays, 10.30am –11.30am (50+ mixed sessions)
£2.50 per session.

Thursdays, 10–11am starting 18 October
£3.20 per session (non member) £1.20 bonus slice members

Sundays, 4–5pm (family session)
£3.20 per session (adult) and £2.20 per session (child) £1.20 bonus slice

■ **Netball**
Tuesdays, 8–9pm
The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, OX4 6JZ
£3.50 per session

For more info: Natasha Mighty 01865 467264 / Natasha.Mighty@fusion-lifestyle.com
www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Clockhouse Community Centre

Long Ground, Greater Leys OX4 7FX. ☎ 01865 395908 **E:** clockhousecdi@btconnect.com

Our sessions are either low-cost or free, and all Leys over 50s are very welcome! Call Sally Meachim on 01865 395908 for dates and details.

■ **NEW! Archaeology club for over 50s**
Help wash and identify some local "finds" with East Oxford Archaeology Project. For dates and details call 395908

■ **Over-50s advice**
FREE monthly, confidential, advice on benefits, debt, housing and consumer issues. Outreach session at the Clockhouse, by Agnes Smith Advice Centre. Appointments call 395908.
Next date: Monday 29 October 10am–12pm. (12 –12.30pm is 'drop-in' – no appointment needed for this slot.)

■ **Games club for over 50s**
Enjoy playing dominoes, scrabble or a wide choice of other games. Mondays 1, 15, 22 and 29 October (not 8th). £1.

■ **Line dancing for over 50s**
Monthly dances. No partner needed, beginners very welcome. Good exercise, great fun! Next one: Monday 8 October, 1.30 to 3 pm. £2,

■ **Yoga for over 50s**
Seated/standing exercise, and relaxation. Improve your flexibility, feel calm and refreshed. Beginners very welcome. Tuesdays 10-11 am. £2.

■ **Singing for fun for over 50s**
No pressure, or reading music, just relax and enjoy singing in good company. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.30 pm. (No session on 30 October.) FREE.

■ **Crafts group for over 50s**
Wednesdays 11am–12.30pm. Bring your knitting, crochet, or sewing. £1

■ **Tai chi for over 50s**
Seated and standing exercise to help you get more supple, and boost your energy. Thursdays 10–11am. £2.

■ **Gardening club**
Monthly meeting of SLIGO (*Senior Leys Independent Gardening Organisation*), first Thursday of each month, at 2.00pm. £2 per meeting. Adults of ALL ages very welcome. ***Next meeting:*** Thursday 4 October. Annual General Meeting. Come and find out what the club does through the year. SLIGO also has regular work parties in the Clockhouse community garden. Volunteers always welcome. Call 395908 for dates and details.

■ **Computer courses for over-50s**
Learn at your own pace .Complete beginners very welcome. Learn how to improve your digital photography skills, or how to make DVDs and calendars. £1 per session. Tel: 395908 for details.

■ **Evening activities group**
Local people have started a "Clockhouse Activity Nights Group" (CLANG). Join the CLANGers at our friendly evening socials. Meet others, relax, chat, and make new friends. ADULTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! For more details and date of next event pease call 395908

■ **Oxford city council – councillors' surgery**
Drop-in session to meet your local city councillors and discuss any concerns. No appointment needed. First Monday of the month at the Clockhouse, 6.30 –7.45pm. Next session: Monday 1 October.

Local Churches

■ **The Church of the Holy Family**
Eucharist: Every Sunday, 10am, with children's activities.
Timeout: Reflective worship. Most Sundays, 6.30pm.
Church Office Hour: Mondays (except bank holidays) at 6.30–7.30pm. For hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries.
Fellowship for Bible: Study, discussion and prayer. Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
☎ Revd Heather Carter 01865 778728
Rev Adam Stevenson, 01865 714163
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

■ **Redeem Christian Church of God**
Meets at the Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
Sunday Service: 3–6.00pm
Bible study on Fridays: 7–8pm, except last Friday of month.
☎ 07825 679044 and 01865 766056
www.RCCGLighthouse.co.uk

■ **Leys Community Church**
Meets on Sunday, 11am at the Oxford Academy, Beecroft Room (includes special activities for children and young people).
☎ Chipper and Anna Betts, 07985 982804

■ **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys
Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; and at 6.00pm. ☎ 01865 776903

■ **Chrisco Ministries**
Meets in Jack Agent Hall at the BBL Community Centre.
Sunday Service: 11am–2pm
☎ 07533 845714 and 07737 564677

Autumn Fun Church

3.00pm Sunday 7 October

An afternoon of fun and creativity

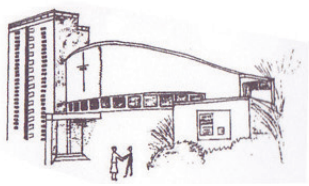
Come and make edible bracelets, autumn collages, fruit kebabs and much more.

Listen to a story, sing a song.

Enjoy a picnic together - hopefully outside!

Church of the Holy Family
1 Cuddesdon Way
Blackbird Leys
OX4 6JH

Do come and bring your friends



For more information:
01865 778728 (Heather)

S & R CHILDS
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A MOTLEY CREW

OXFORD UNITED MATCH REPORT BY JACEK MAJEWSKI

ACCORDING to Wikipedia a motley crew is "a cliché for a roughly organised assembly of characters". I must say I used to be a fan of a heavy metal band from California calling themselves Motley Crue back in the eighties. They were actually not too bad and even though the musicians taking part in this adventure would come and go – the band still retained its character and their gigs were fun.

Oxford United FC are looking like a team fitting the motley crew description from Wikipedia right now. Roughly organised characters performing with no cohesion, no understanding what other members of the band are doing, playing out of tune and lacking confidence. And their gigs are certainly no fun.

The game against Bradford City was a clash of two teams incapable of creating anything constructive up front. It was really about who was the poorest on the day and Oxford won this competition unfortunately.

Two second half corners completely ignored by the players in yellow shirts gave two goals and ultimately—three points—to a very ordinarily looking Bradford side. They did not play Oxford off the pitch like Exeter did two weeks before. They were just solid in defence trying to exploit their opponents' vulnerabilities and that is all you need to go home with a win from the Kassam Stadium nowadays.

I know there have been injuries (again) to key players but does anyone know what is going on with James Constable for example? Red card for two yellows two weeks ago—another yellow in this game —again for dissent. Rather than playing his game Beano seems to be more interested in waving his arms at the referee every time a decision goes against him. What about Michael Raynes—does anybody recall a decent game from him since he became an Oxford player? We all know these players haven't forgotten how to play football but they need to start performing sooner rather than later because what they have done in September is simply a relegation form.

Oxford United 0 – Bradford City 2

Goals: Davies '52 , Wells '68

United: Clarke – Batt, Raynes, Wright, Capaldi – O'Brien (62'Leven), Heslop (62'Rigg), Cox – Potter, Constable, Craddock

City: McLaughlin – Meredith, Davies, Oliver, McArdle – Reid (82'Hines), Atkinson, Jones, Doyle – Hanson, Wells (70' Thompson)

Referees – A.Davies – A.Crysell, A.Ihringova

Attendance – 6032 (393 visitors)

AFC HINKSEY V BRACKNELL

AFC Hinskey hosted Bracknell Town last weekend. With Bracknell having played only four games, winning three, it would be a hard game to judge for the Oxford side.

Both sides started tentatively, just feeling each other out, not wanting to underestimate each other.

The teams enjoyed their fair share of the possession and both keepers were called into action, but as the game progressed it became more open and Bracknell began to look the better side.

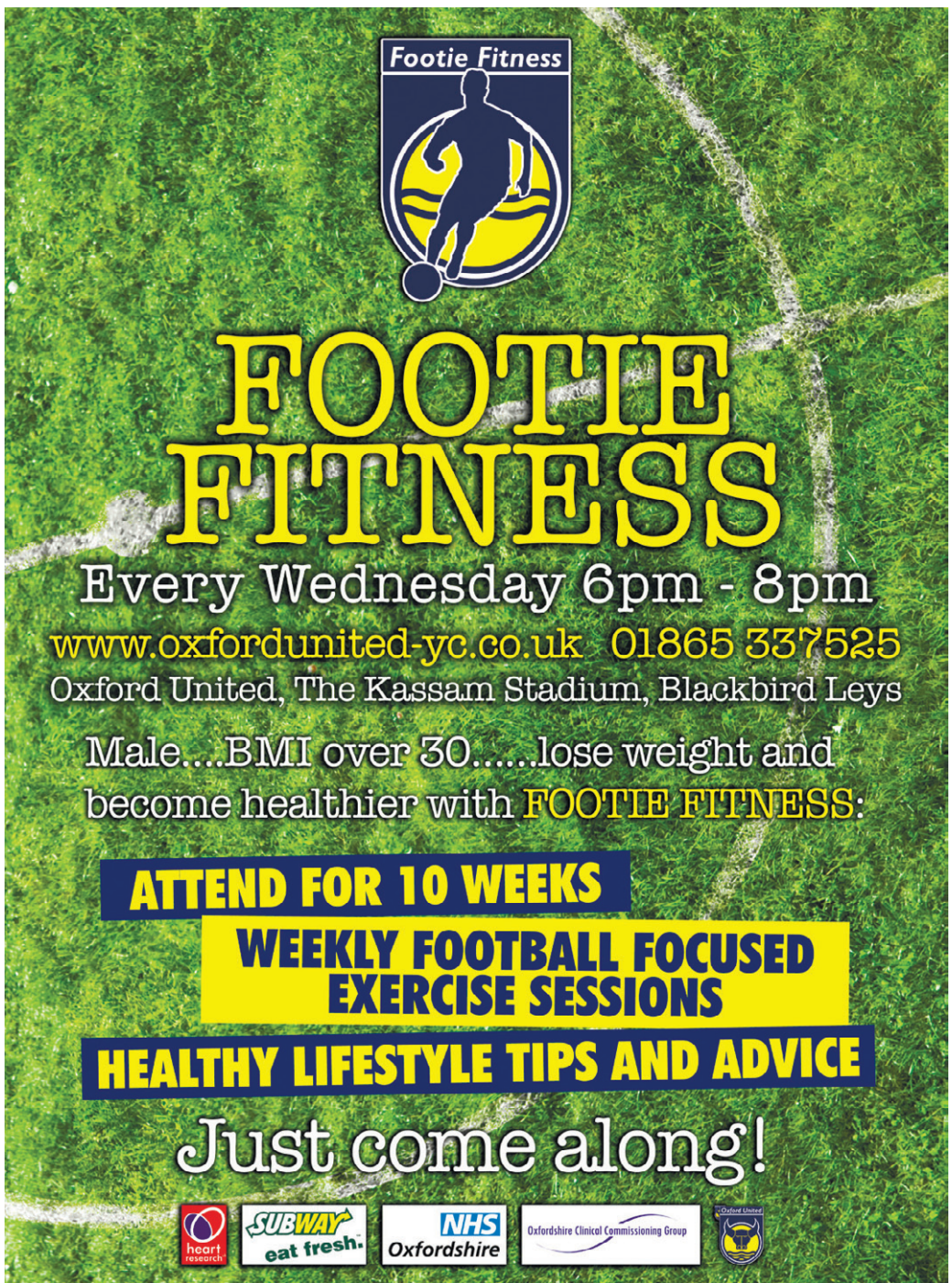
However just as the half hour mark was approaching, Jelroy Constant broke down the right wing and played a deep cross to Alex Fasoranti at the far side of Bracknell's six yard box. When the ball arrived Fasoranti nodded a looping header back across goal over the keeper and into the net. This seemed to fill Hinksey with confidence and it looked like they would build on their 1-0 lead.

However this was short lived as, in just under ten minutes later, Bracknell's Scott Williams drove a low and hard shot from just outside the area goal bound which found its way under Martyn Clark's arm and over the goal line to bring the scores level. When pacey Jake White capitalised on a defensive error he found himself through on goal and he slotted past Clark to put his side ahead, minutes before the end of the half.

Bracknell came out in the second half buzzing and went straight at Hinksey. With Julian McCalmon and, captain, Triston Lawrence both putting man of the match performances at centre back Bracknell's advances were being thwarted. Try as they might though 15 minutes into the second half White latched onto a through ball and went through one on one and doubled his tally to give his side a two goal lead. This took the wind from Hinksey's sails and 15 minutes later Bracknell scored again when White again found himself through on goal as Clark came out to narrow the angle White shot and Clark saved only to parry the ball straight back to White who then lobbed Clark with a header.

With ten minutes to go White finished off the scoring when he beat Clark, outside his area and slotted into an empty net.

AFC Hinsksey 1
Bracknell Town 5



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